

18 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-9043

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 28 March 2019. You asked:

I am writing to request the following information concerning firearm crimes in NZ. To clarify, by "criminal incident" I refer to one incident, not multiple individual crimes one person may have committed during that incident (ie. mass shootings)

- 1. How many criminal incidents involving each of the following categories of firearm, legally held by a licensed owner, were committed by that owner in the last 10 years (since 28 March, 2009) A, B, C, E*
- 2. How many criminal incidents involving legally held, but illegally modified A-Cat firearms were committed by their owner in the last 10 years?*
- 3. How many criminal incidents involving any firearm were committed by persons not legally entitled to hold that category of firearm? (excluding illegally altered A-Cat which are illegal for any person to possess)*
- 4. Of each of the above six scenarios, how many of these incidents resulted in personal injury to a person or persons other than the perpetrator?*

In the ten years between 28 Mar 2009 and 27 Mar 2019, there have been 2,719 occurrences where the alleged offender had held a firearms licence at the time of the occurrence. In the same time period, there were 19,434 occurrences where the alleged offender did not hold an active firearms licence at the time of the offence. The firearms offences are Crimes Act offences (such as homicide or assault) as well as Arms Act offences (such as unlawful possession of a firearm). These numbers do not include those occurrences where the offender was not identified/located (and thus their firearms licensing status cannot be established).

A, B, C, E is a type of a licence endorsement and does not directly relate to the firearm that could be used in an offence. For example, two identical firearms could be held on B and C endorsements, or C and E endorsements. E endorsement was revoked by legislation in April 2019.

Police does record the type of firearm (eg, rifle, shotgun) used in an offence, but this is not always recorded in structured fields. To ascertain the type of firearm and the amount

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of injury sustained in each offence would require a review of each individual case. These questions are refused in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 as this will take substantial collation and research to produce. In arriving at this decision, I have first considered whether fixing a charge and/or extending the time for response would enable the request to be granted.

Police records do not differentiate between legally held and illegally modified firearms and illegal firearms – an illegal modification makes the firearm illegally held. These questions are refused in accordance with section 18(g) as the information is not held.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



Mike McIlraith
Acting Superintendent
Arms Act Service Delivery Group